

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims stand rejected and objected to as set out in the Office Action Summary Sheet. Applicant has cancelled without prejudice claims 2, 3, 14, 15, 26, 27, 38, 39, 50, 51, 62, 63, 73, 74, 85 and 86, amended claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 49, 61, 72 and 84 and added newly written claims 96-111. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-13, 16-25, 28-37, 40-49, 52-61, 64-72, 75-84 and 87-11 remain in the application.

The Examiner's indication that Applicant's originally submitted drawings are accepted by the Patent Office is very much appreciated.

The Examiner's indication that the previous arguments with respect to claims 1-95 were persuasive and resulted in the withdrawal of that rejection is very much appreciated. However, the Examiner institutes a new rejection over the newly cited Tischler reference (U.S. Patent 7,043,593). However, on page 6 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicates that various dependent claims contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended the existing claims so that all claims incorporate the subject matter of at least one of these indicated allowable claims and any intervening claims.

For example, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3 which previously depended from claim 1. Because claim 3 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, its incorporation along with intervening claim 2 into claim 1 is believed to present claim 1 in allowable condition. Accordingly claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claims 4-12 are all dependent claim 1 and therefore are believed allowable. Additionally, Applicant notes that claims 4 and 6, directly and indirectly dependent from claim 1, but are also indicated as containing allowable subject matter. While claims 4 and 6 have been

retained, by virtue of the amendment to claim 1, they will also include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. However, Applicant has introduced newly written independent claims 96 and 97 corresponding respectively to the combination of the subject matter of original claim 1 and claim 4 (new claim 96) and original claim 1 and claims 5 and 6 (new claim 97) in as much as claims 4 and 6 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Thus, while Applicant has cancelled without prejudice claims 2 and 3, newly written claims 96 and 97 are offered for consideration. As a result, claims 1-12 and 96 and 97 are all indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the outstanding Official Action and thus should be allowable. Similar amendments have been made to claims 13-24 and newly written claims 98 and 99, claims 25-36 and newly written claims 100 and 101, claims 37-48 and newly written claims 102 and 103, claims 49-60 and newly written claims 104 and 15, claims 61-71 and newly written claims 106 and 107, claims 72-83 and newly written claims 108 and 109, claims 84-95 and newly written claims 110 and 11. In view of the above-noted cancellations and amendments, it is believed that claims 1, 4-13, 16-25, 28-37, 40-49, 52-61, 64-72, 75-84 and 87-111 are all in condition for allowance. With these amendments and cancellations, all pending rejections of claims over the Tischler reference by itself or in combination with the Wyschogrod application (U.S. Patent Application 10/217,592) have been obviated.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that remaining claims 1, 4-13, 16-25, 28-37, 40-49, 52-61, 64-72, 75-84 and 87-111 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will

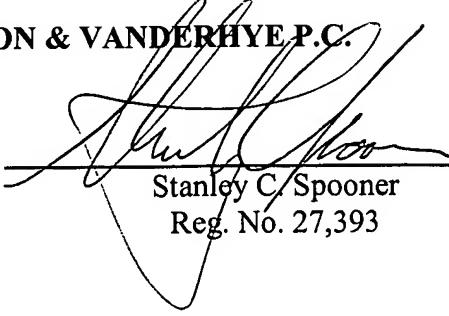
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facilitate allowance of the claims in this application, he is respectfully requested to contact
Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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